

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF PATIENTS, FAMILIES
AND CAREGIVERS COPING WITH
FTD

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the patients, families and caregivers in Pennsylvania's Seventh coping with frontotemporal degeneration, a disease process with devastating effect on the areas of the brain that give us our personality. One unique characteristic of FTD is that it is a young person's dementia—with the onset of symptoms typically beginning between the ages of 40 and 60. These symptoms include a complicated mix of language impairments, changes in personality and behavior, and the loss of muscle control and movement problems.

National news outlets have covered this awful disease in recent years. The New York Times recently highlighted Michael French's experience with FTD. Michael was a good cook, but he suddenly started burning every pot he cooked with. He would throw away important tax documents make financial decisions that didn't make any sense. Michael's wife encouraged him to seek medical help, but it took over a year before Michael was properly diagnosed with FTD and could receive appropriate treatment to manage his behavioral symptoms. Michael now resides in a nursing home.

FTD robs far too many Americans like Michael of the ability to work, care for himself, and be a loving family member. However, there is no known cure for FTD, and many clinicians miss the diagnosis, especially as FTD is rare and dementia is primarily considered a problem of the elderly. Consequently, patients, families, and caregivers may endure years of confusion and ineffective treatment.

Michael's story was brought to my attention recently by a constituent who lost his father to FTD, and is now on the board of the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration, a nonprofit in Pennsylvania's Seventh District. This nonprofit is doing critically important work to raise public awareness and support medical research on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of FTD. I urge my colleagues to learn more about FTD and what they can do to help their constituents access quality medical care and services, and to support the medical research that is needed to cure FTD and related neurological diseases.

RECOGNIZING HABITAT FOR HU-
MANITY AND THE CARTER WORK
PROJECT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Rep. Anna Eshoo, Rep. Sam Farr, Rep. John Garamendi, Rep. Michael Honda, Rep. Barbara Lee, Rep. Jerry McNerney, and Rep. George Miller, to express our most sincere appreciation to Habitat for Humanity and the Carter Work Project.

For 30 years, former President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Rosalynn Carter have spent a week a year on a building project with Habitat for Humanity. Their annual commitment to Habitat is called the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project and brings attention to Habitat's work across the globe and in our local communities. This year the Carters are in Oakland and San Jose for the 30th annual event.

President Carter first became involved with Habitat for Humanity in 1984 when he used his carpentry expertise to help renovate an apartment building in New York City. Ever since, President Carter and Mrs. Carter have been building homes every year with Habitat. The Carters have built homes in New York, Illinois, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Miami, D.C., South Dakota, Southern California, Tennessee, Texas, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Michigan, Mississippi, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, and now in California.

The Carters have also helped build homes abroad in Mexico, Canada, Hungary, Philippines, Korea, South Africa, India, Thailand, China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Haiti.

The housing market in the San Francisco Bay Area continues to be among the least affordable in the United States. Less than half of families in the area can afford to buy a home and for low-income families it is nearly impossible. There is a strong need and demand for affordable housing in the Bay Area and the lack of affordable housing is damaging our communities. Our community needs strong solutions to this crisis.

Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley has helped revitalize neighborhoods, build sustainable housing solutions, and assist families in becoming successful homeowners.

Since 1986, Habitat has helped strengthen communities and empowered over 360 low-income families in Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara counties.

Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley deals with the challenge of affordable housing by using volunteer labor and donated funds and materials to build affordable homes for families in need. These families contribute "sweat equity" by contributing hundreds of hours of labor in building their own homes.

Habitat for Humanity helps build communities by strengthening neighborhood ties. Habitat recruits volunteers to help build its

homes, with nearly 60,000 volunteers having contributed over one million hours to help build homes in the East Bay and Silicon Valley.

These community-built homes are also sustainable and environmentally friendly. Habitat uses green design by taking into account energy efficiency, smart use of building materials, and water usage to better protect the environment and Habitat homeowners. Over 60 green homes have been built in the Bay Area using these environmentally-conscious building principles.

We thank President and Mrs. Carter and Habitat for Humanity for this important work. We hope their legacy of public service will serve as an inspiration to others to support and serve their communities.

HONORING RICARDO ICAZA

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Ricardo F. Icaza, a revered labor leader whose lifelong work and dedication has resulted in the success of Southern California's workforce.

For more than 50 years, Ricardo has been a loyal and effective member of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) International Union Local 770, which currently has over 30,000 members in the food, retail and healthcare industries.

Ricardo has held numerous positions in Local 770 including, research assistant, organizer, business representative and secretary-treasurer. In 1981, Ricardo became the first Latino president of Local 770 because of his commitment to preserving middle class values.

Under Ricardo's resilient and unwavering leadership, Local 770 has become the largest local union in California and one of the largest in the entire nation. Ricardo demonstrated his adept negotiation skills numerous times in order to ensure that his members are fairly compensated with the pay and benefits that they have worked so hard to earn.

In 2003, Ricardo stood up for the middle class and successfully led his members through a difficult 142 day lockout and strike resulting in the preservation of the health care benefits that he worked so hard to create throughout the course of his presidency. The tenacity Ricardo displayed during the lockout illustrated his dedication to improving the lives of working men and women.

In addition to Ricardo's determined efforts for our region's workers, he is an outstanding citizen who defines philanthropy. His generosity and commitment to charitable causes demonstrate Ricardo's passion for the betterment of our community and country. In 2001, Ricardo established the UFCW Local 770 Icaza Foundation, a unique non-profit organization that raises funds for leukemia research and other worthy local charities.

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